

44. (New)] The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the solid electrolyte layer delineates a boundary for the measuring gas chamber and the reference gas channel.

45. (New)] The method as recited in claim 43, further comprising the step of:
producing at least one supporting element in the reference gas channel using the solid electrolyte layer.

46. (New)] The method as recited in claim 43, wherein the pasty ceramic material and the solid electrolyte foil include the same solid electrolyte.

47. (New)] The method as recited in claim 43, further comprising the steps of:
performing a thermal treatment after printing to convert the pasty ceramic material [is converted] into a ceramic form.

Remarks

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice claims 1-23, in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02879, and adds new claims 24 to 47. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification includes the Abstract and contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(iii) and § 1.125(b)(2), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02879 includes an International Search Report, dated January 25, 2001. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. An English translation of the Search Report accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants assert that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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